

**National Organic Standards Board
Handling Committee
Final Recommendation for Colors, Non-synthetic**

August 7, 2006

I. List: 205.605 Nonagricultural (nonorganic) substances allowed as ingredients in or on processed products labeled as “organic” or “made with organic (specified ingredients or food groups.”

(a) Nonsynthetics allowed

II. Committee Summary:

There were many comments recommending the continued allowance of non-synthetic colors in organic handling. The federal register notice regarding Sunset Review asked the public to provide evidence and address concerns for any substance they believed should be discontinued. There was a comment addressing the concern that colors and flavors were added to the National List without a technical review by the NOSB. The Handling Committee requested and received a technical overview of food color additives on October 14, 2005. This technical review offered no information that would suggest that non-synthetic colors are inconsistent with organic practices.

There were numerous comments opposing the renewing the listing of non-synthetic colors. A few commenters requested that they be moved to 205.606, an action which cannot be taken as part of Sunset. Several commenters cited that non-synthetic colors had been placed on the National List without being petitioned and without the recommendation of the NOSB. The Board finds merit in this observation. Colors, non-synthetic cannot be renewed through the Sunset process because there was never an NOSB recommendation for it's placement on the National List.

III. Board Recommendation

The handling committee recommends not renewing the following substances in this use category, effective the Sunset date of October 22, 2007:

Colors, nonsynthetic sources only

HC vote:

Moved: Kevin O'Rell

Second: Joe Smillie

Board vote: Yes- 3

No-0

Absent-1